

# St. Louis River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan

A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - MN Legacy Fund Partnership

2016 Area of Concern Annual Meeting  
Dearborn, Michigan  
March 3, 2016



AOC Listed in 1987

9 Beneficial Use Impairments Identified

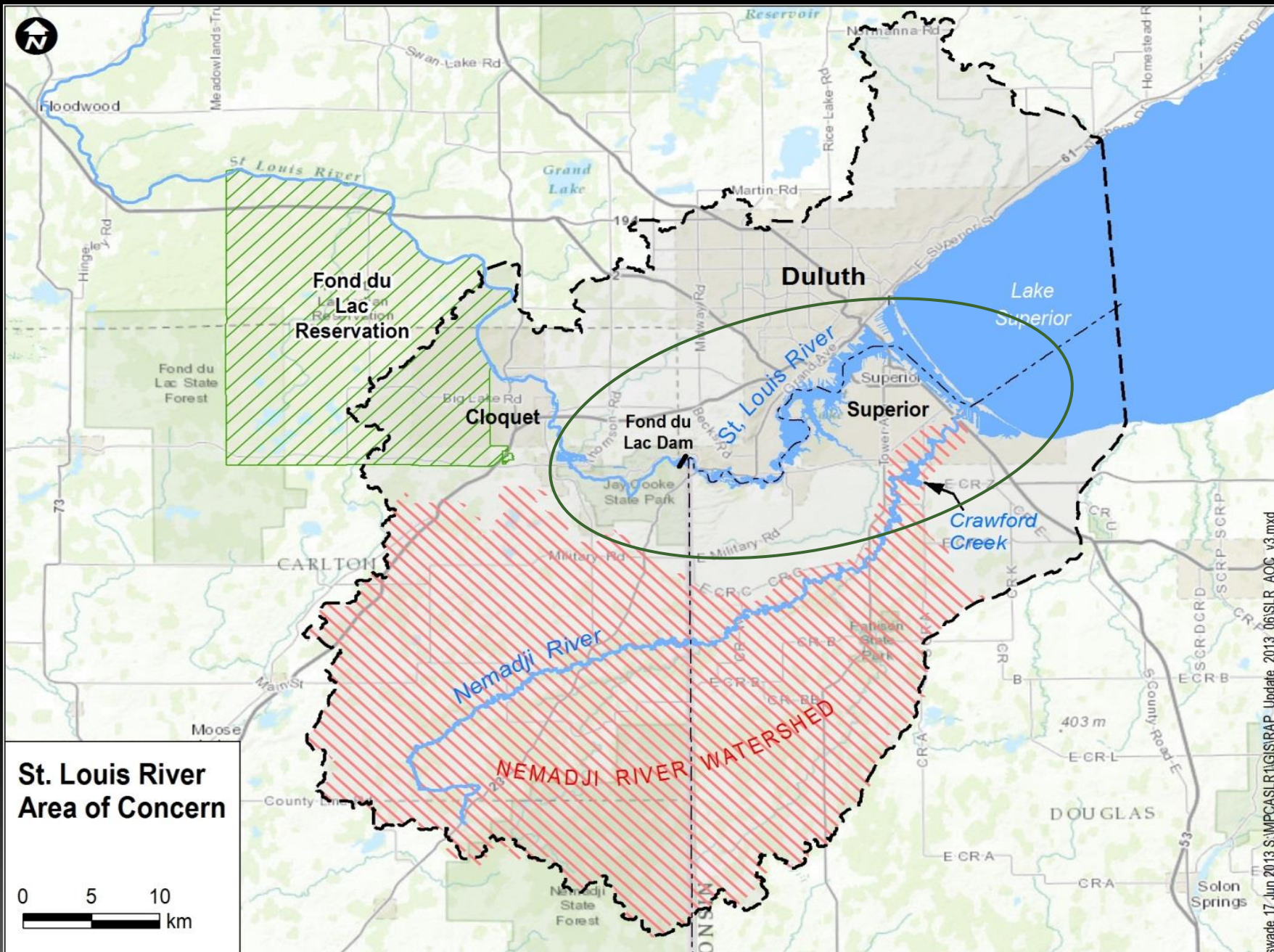


Legacy Habitat  
Alteration

Legacy  
Contaminants

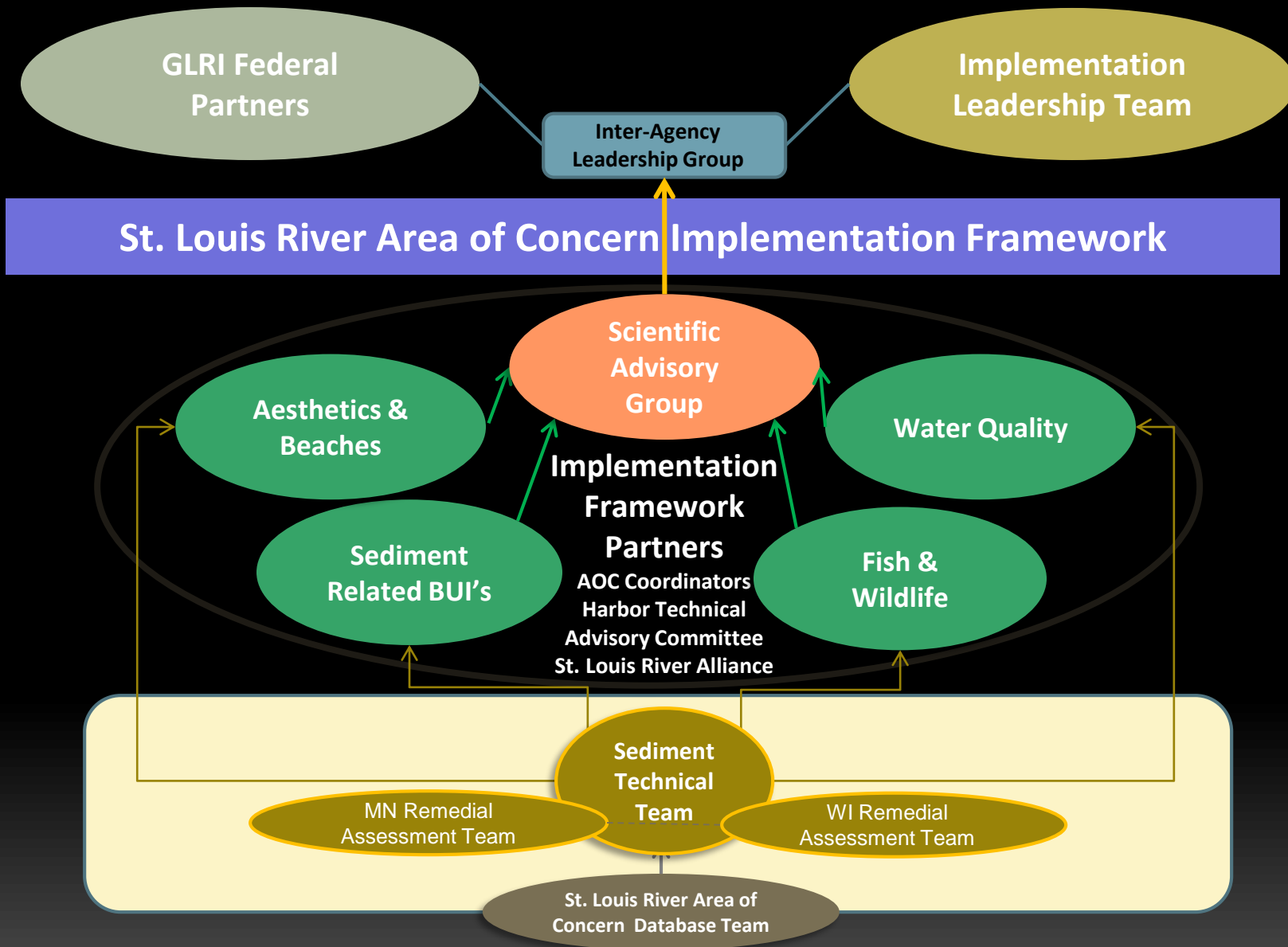






# Remedial Action Plan Development Process

- Secured GLRI RAP planning grant
- Private consultant contract to coordinate
- Navigated by Agencies – 2.5 year process
  - Area of Concern Coordinators – Capacity Funded
    - MPCA, WDNR, MDNR, Fond du Lac Band
- Stakeholders Engaged in Development
  - Tribes, Federal, State and Local Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Academia, Citizens
- 60+ actions identified
  - Tied to BUI's - Budget and Timelines Developed





## St. Louis River Area of Concern Implementation Framework: Roadmap to Delisting (Remedial Action Plan Update)

July 15, 2013



Photo by Dave Witt/Hero-Environmental Consulting; courtesy Duluth Seaway Port Authority

- Rolled out July 15, 2013
- Goal of delisting the AOC by 2025
- 60 actions identified to remove all 9 BUIs
- Planning level project costs

## Appendices

### St. Louis River Area of Concern Implementation Framework: Roadmap to Delisting

July 15, 2013



Photo by Dave Witt/Hero-Environmental Consulting; courtesy Duluth Seaway Port Authority

## Appendices

Appendix A: Implementation Framework Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Appendix B: BUI and SAG Team Membership List

Appendix C: BUI Team Charge

Appendix D: BUI Blueprints

Appendix E: Remediation to Restoration Template

Appendix F: St. Louis River Area of Concern Sediment Characterization: Final Report

Appendix G: Sediment Assessment Areas

## St. Louis River Area of Concern

# Implementation Framework: Roadmap to Delisting

## Remedial Action Plan Update

The Remedial Action Plan Update is:

**Inclusive** – Coordinated between Minnesota and Wisconsin with active participation of the Fond du Lac Band. Developed by an extensive stakeholder involvement process.

**Comprehensive and Targeted** – Addresses impairments in the AOC, targets objectives to remove impairments, provides strategies and actions to achieve removal objectives, and sets a timeline and estimated costs to do so.

**Aggressive** – Sets an overall goal to delist the AOC by 2025 which will require well-managed coordination of state agencies and partners to complete the actions in the RAP Update.

**Timely** – Funding sources to begin this work include the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy. Appropriate GLRI federal agencies are engaged and ready to step up in the St. Louis River. In Minnesota, Legacy Funds can provide matching funds to leverage federal and other non-state resources to fully implement the plan.



# BUI Removal Goals

2013 ————— 2020 —————→ 2025

Aesthetics (2014)

Fish Tumors &  
Deformities (2016)

Excessive Loading Nutrients  
& Sediment (2017)

Fish & Wildlife Populations (2018)

Beaches/Body Contact (2020)

Degradation of Benthos (2022)

Restrictions on Dredging (2023)

Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat (2025)

Fish Consumption Advisories (2025)

Major contaminated sediment cleanup and aquatic habitat restoration actions to be completed by 2020.

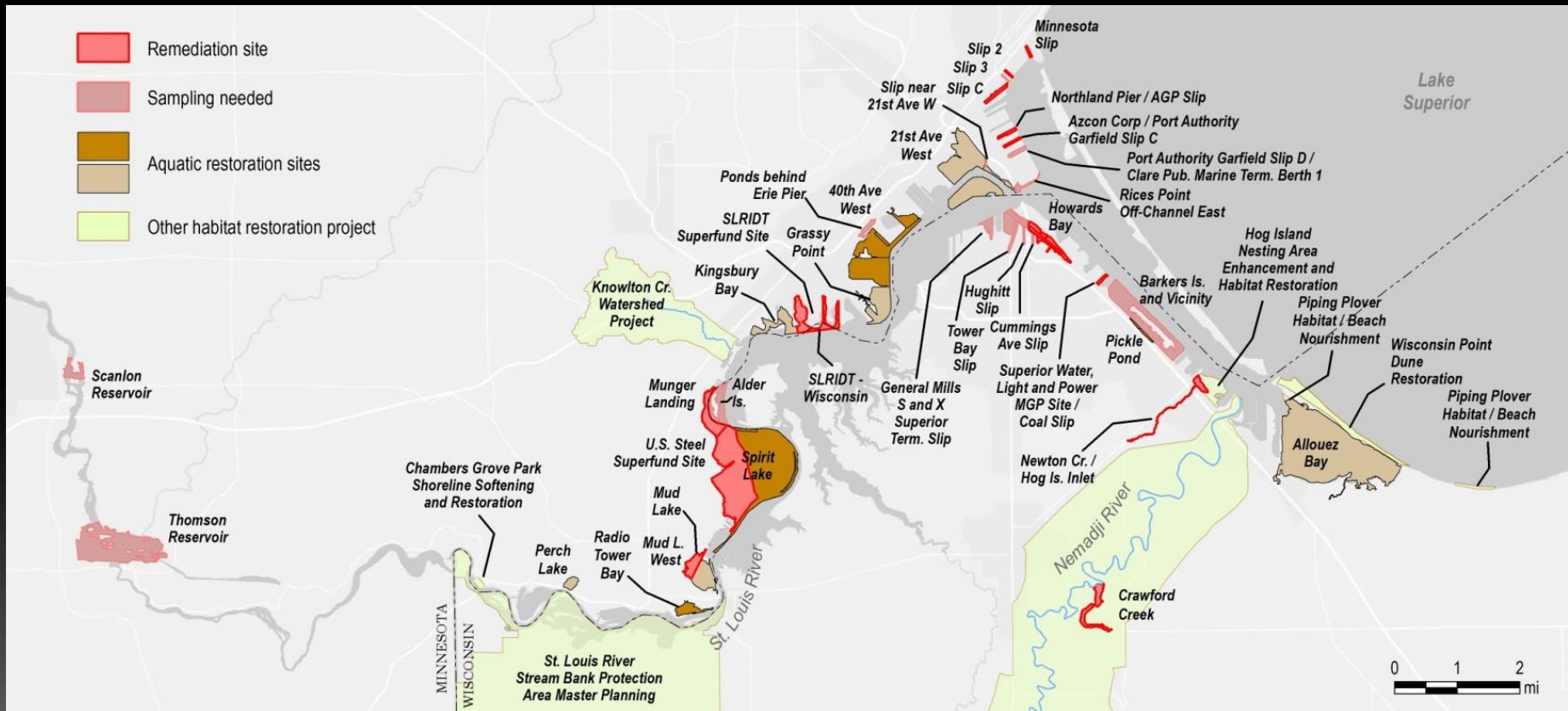
AOC post construction aquatic habitat monitoring to run ~2020-2023





# St. Louis River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan

## Contaminated Sediment Cleanup - Aquatic Habitat Restoration Sites



# Remedial Action Plan Implementation Process

- Monthly Leadership Updates
- Quarterly Management Updates
- Annual Federal Partners Sessions (MN & WI)
- Annual RAP Updates
  - Area of Concern Coordinators – Capacity Funded
    - MPCA, WDNR, MDNR, Fond du Lac Band



**St. Louis River Area of Concern**  
**2015 Remedial Action Plan**  
Reflects amendments to the 2014 RAP  
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015



Photo by Dave Witt/Beero-Environmental Consulting, courtesy Duluth Seaway Port Authority

- # Annual RAP Updates
- Submitted simultaneously by MPCA and WIDNR
  - Developed by Area of Concern Coordinators and staff from MPCA, WDNR, MDNR and the Fond du Lac Band
  - Public comment period for each update







*“There never has been a more perfect time for restoring a place dear to Northlanders — the St. Louis River — from more than 130 years of accumulated environmental injury. For the first time, functional partnerships, dedicated funding and the will to achieve ambitious and realistic cleanup and restoration goals are perfectly aligned to help comprehensively restore the health of not only the headwaters of Lake Superior but the entire Great Lakes region.”*

MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine  
MNDNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr





We are not just gonna sit here and watch the river flow -  
— we are going to get it delisted!